

Remarks

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-20 were rejected by the Examiner.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-20 is respectfully requested for the reasons explained below.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103: Claims 1-2, 5-6, 8-10, 12-13 and 15-20 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lahey et al. (US Patent No. 6,587,217) in view of Iwata (U.S. Patent No. 6,778,289).

Applicant's system includes a workstation and a document processing device such as a printer. First a document is created and stored and then three specific and separate actions take place. The three actions are:

- 1) a first interface is opened between a workstation and the document processing device in order to access the operational setting of the document processing device.
- 2) a user selects operational settings. The claims recite that the settings are selected through an interface to the workstation and through the first interface.
- 3) the location of the document data file is communicated to the document processing device and the device is activated with the operational settings.

For example, applicant's claim 1 recites:

" activating a first interface between said document processing device and a workstation whereby said workstation can access a plurality of operational setting of said document processing device;

"providing a user interface to said workstation, whereby a user can through said user interface and said first interface select operational setting for said document processing device;"

"generating a document data file at a particular location"

and

"communicating said particular location of said document data file to said document processing device and activating a document processing job to be executed in accordance with operational settings selected by said user"

The system described in the Lahey reference that was cited by the examiner includes a client computers and a printer. For each print job, an item record indicating how a job should be printed is created. The Lahey system transmits to the printer, the actual data file along with "item record" which indicates how the document should be printed.

In Lahey's system a generic "item record" is modified and the modified "item record" along with the document to be printed it is sent to the printer. At Column 7 lines 20 et. seq. Lahey explains,

The client computer 4a, b, c transmits this translated job ticket 40 along with **the items identified in the item records 52, 54** to the InfoPrint MPC server 6 over the network 8". (emphasis added)

Thus, Lahey system transfers the actual files to the printer along with the job ticket which defines how the job should be printed. There is no interface opened between the workstation and the document processing device as recited in applicant's claims.

In the office action dated 03/31/06, the examiner refers to column 7 lines 15-31 and indicated that these lines describe opening an interface between the workstation and the document processing device. The examiner indicates that at column 8, lines 35-47 of Lahey,

“Lahey teaches that after the user selects the desired printer, the user then gains access to the print attributes (operational settings) available on that printer”

It is true that a GUI is opened and that this GUI shows the possible settings of the printer. However, the GUI that is opened is to the InfoPrint software that is located on the client computer. An interface is not opened between the document processing device (e.g. to the printer) and the work station as required by the applicant's claims.

At the above referenced point in the Lahey reference, the reference teaches that a “Graphical User Interface” is opened to the InfoPrint Submit Software. At column 7, lines 15 et. seq. the Lahey reference clearly explains that:

“The job ticket 40 may be created on the client computer 4a, b, c using the InfoPrint Submit software 10 installed thereon. The InfoPrint Submit software 10 includes a graphical user interface (GUI) displayed on the monitor 14a, b, c

that the user may use to create the job ticket 40. The InfoPrint Submit software 10 then translates the job ticket 40 created thereby to a format compatible with the InfoPrint MPC server 6.....

.....The user creates the job ticket 40 by entering information into different fields and selecting specific options presented in the GUI 60. Standard user interface mechanisms are preferably implemented in the GUI 60 to provide the user with the necessary functionality and ease of use."

Thus, in the Lahey reference, a job ticket that defines how a job should be printed is created by an interface to the InfoPrint software. As indicated in the above quoted passage from the Lahey reference, "The user creates the job ticket 40 by entering information into different fields and selecting specific options presented in the GUI 60".

Thus, in Lahey, the user has an interface to the Info Print software that presents the operator with the various options available. In applicant's system an interface is opened to the document processing device, for example to the printer. These are two entirely different ways of accomplishing the same overall end result of telling a device how a job should be handled.

The Iwata reference has no teaching that overcomes the above explained deficiency in the Lahey reference. It is noted that the examiner cited Iwata to show communicating the location of a print file. This has nothing to do with opening an interface to the document processing device which the deficiency in the lacey reference.

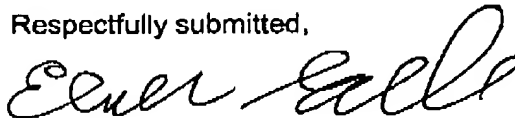
Claims 3-4 and 7 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lahey in view of Iwata (U.S. Patent No. 6,778,289) as applied to claim 1 in the Office Action and further in view of Yokoyama (U.S. Patent No. 6,166,826). Claims 11 and 14 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lahey et al. (US Patent No. 6,587,217) in view of Shima (U.S. Patent No. 6,552,816).

The additional references cited by the examiner in the above rejections were cited to show various other aspects of the system. These references have nothing to do with opening an interface between the work station and the document processing device. Thus, claims 3-4, 7, 11 and 14 are patentable over Lahey and the other references for the same reason as explained above in that Lahey (and the other references) do not show opening an interface between the workstation and the document processing device.

Conclusion: Allowance of claims 1-20 is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

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I hereby certify that this correspondence
is being transmitted to the U.S. Patent and
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(571) 273-8300, on April 19, 2006.

Beth Nichols

AMENDMENT

PAGE 10 OF 10

APPLICATION NO. 09/784,227
DOCKET NO. 8371-123